

Newspaper Clips

April 8, 2011

Pioneer ND 08/04/2011 P-4

IIT-JEE reforms not in place, students irked

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Much to the anger and despondency of 4.8 lakh aspirants, the IIT-JEE has backtracked from the announcements made by SG Dhande, director, IIT Kanpur and chairman of Joint Admission Board 2011, that the answer-keys would be published within 48 to 72 hours of the examination. He had announced it during a Press conference in March.

A recent Press release from IIT Kanpur states that the answer-keys would now be published on May 15, which is 35 days after the IIT-JEE scheduled on April 10. "The evaluation of the papers would be completed by that time, how would the publication of results help then?" Students wondered.

Dhande had announced three reforms in the Press meet on March 26. Besides publishing the answer-keys within the stipulated time-frame, he had also committed that the scanned copy of the Optical Response Sheet (ORS) would be made available on web and subject-wise scores would be provided at the time of result-declaration.

While the students are upset over the gross delay in the publishing of answer-keys, they regretted that even the ORS would be displayed after May 25, or in other words, after the result declaration. The Press release is silent on the third reform that the subject-wise marks would be made available at the time of

result declaration.

Sources pointed out that from JEE 2008 onwards, it had started releasing the answer-keys, on August 01, when the whole process of admission was complete. Then there were errors found in the answer-keys/questions by the experts for which the students got penalised for no fault of theirs. It raised doubts that it was done so to prevent any challenge to the errors within time. JEE 2010 was marred with many types of errors in question papers, none of which could be effectively corrected by IITs' corrective measures.

On the other hand, coaching institutes manage to publish the answer-keys and solutions on the very day of examination. Thus, these institutes do brisk business by trapping the candidates.

Discrepancies like ad hocism in cutoff determination, unattended errors in question settings/evaluation, tampering/shredding of ORS in undue haste, promoting coaching institutes, lacking effective transparency and accountability, amongst others too have come to fore.

They said the three reforms announced by Dhande were in response to a PIL pending in Supreme Court. The PIL was filed by Prashant Bhushan on behalf of Rajeev Kumar of IIT Kharagpur for comprehensive reforms in JEE with effective transparency and accountability. A notice was served on the director, IIT Kanpur by the Supreme Court on February 11.

Times of India Chennai
07.04.2011 P-10

IIT-JEE to post answer keys on website by May 15

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: IIT-JEE has backed out from their announcement that the answer keys would be publicly announced within 48-72 hours. Now, the solution would be put on the website of Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) by May 15 — 35 days after the examination. Around 4.85 students will appear for JEE, which will be held on April 10.

Going back on its promise would mean students have to rely on coaching institutes for answer keys. Usually, answer keys are given by coaching institutes on the same day. JEE started releasing the answer keys on August 1 since 2008 only when the whole admission process was complete. By May 15, Optical Response Sheets of candidates would have been corrected.

Two weeks ago, IIT-Kanpur, which is conducting JEE this year, had announced three important reforms: answer keys would be made public within 48-72 hour, marks of candidates would be declared along with the result and Optical Response Sheet (ORS) of candidates would be scanned and posted on the website.

Business Standard ND 8/04/2011 P-4

Nadar to head IIT-Kharagpur board

Shiv Nadar, founder of software major HCL, will now head the board of governors of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur. The HCL founder takes over the chairmanship from B Muthuraman, vice chairman of Tata Steel.

BS REPORTER

Hindu ND 08.04.11

P-4

Alumni of IITs extend support to Anna Hazare

NEW DELHI: A large number of alumni of the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) across the country have extended full support to social activist Anna Hazare's campaign against corruption.

"We will extend full support and take the movement across the world. We all face corruption in our daily lives but never raise our voice against it. This is the time to join hands and turn this movement into a revolution," said Yatinder Suri, founder member of IIT Kharagpur Alumni Foundation.

Times of India ND 08/04/2011

P-21

Surfing internet in office makes you better worker

A study says wasting time on the net makes you a better worker. Danish scientists divided workers into two groups. Both were asked to watch a video of people passing a ball back and forth. One group was made to watch a clip online beforehand. Each group was then asked how many times the ball had been passed. It was found that workers who had watched the clip made fewer mistakes.

Control a PC with your thoughts:

Scientists have created a PC that can be controlled by the power of thought, a breakthrough which they say could soon help people unable to speak or move. Volunteers were able to move a cursor on a screen simply by "saying" words in their heads. The device will help patients unable to move because of brain injury or stroke.

Tangerines fight heart disease:

It's often said that an apple a day keeps the doctor away. Now, scientists say the same is true even for tangerines which have properties that keep diseases at bay. Canadian researchers found that eating the citrus fruit regularly could protect against heart attacks, diabetes and stroke as well as it helps stave off obesity.

Gene mutation tied to Parkinson's:

A Canadian-led study has discovered that a gene mutation in Parkinson's patients prevents brain cells from purging a key protein linked to the degenerative disease. Affected brain cells show signs of injury, and when they die, it leads to the tremors and slowness that is typically associated with Parkinson's disease.

**For suggestions, queries and comments,
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Times of India ND 08/04/2011 P-21

Retina grown in lab offers a ray of hope

May Pave Way For Growing Other Organs Artificially

Paris: In a major advance toward regenerative medicine, researchers have for the first time coaxed stem cells from a mammal into becoming an embryonic eye, according to a study.

The results, published in *Nature*, show that growing a complex human organ inside a petri dish — while still a long way off — is no longer the stuff of science fiction. They also point the way to new treatments for diseases that rob people of sight, and even the possibility of one day restoring vision with transplanted retinas generated from a patient's own stem cells, say outside experts.

In laboratory experiments with mice, researchers led by Yoshiki Sasai of the RIKEN Center for Developmental Biology in Kobe, Japan began with pluripotent stem cells, the universal starter kit for virtually every specialised cell in an organism. Up to now, stem cells have been seen mainly as a potential source of replacement tissue — such as muscle, liver or heart — composed of a single type of cell.

Generating a more complex set of cells, or an entire organ, was thought to be dependent on complicated chemical interactions with neighbouring tissues during gestation, and thus impossible outside the natural process of cell division and



© Jean-Philippe Lacube/Photononstop/Corbis

VISION OF THE FUTURE: Experts set in motion the transformation of embryonic stem cells into a so-called optic cup, the layered, 3D structure that becomes the retina in an eye

growth. But Sasai and colleagues, using new lab techniques, managed to set in motion the transformation of mouse embryonic stem cells into a so-called optic cup, the layered, three-dimensional structures that become the retina in an eye.

Significantly, the cells did the work themselves, without being pushed, pulled or “pressurised” into any particular shape, the researchers said. “What we’ve been able to do is resolve a nearly century-old problem in embryology by showing that retinal precursors have the inherent ability to give rise to the complex structure of the optic cup,” Sasai said.

Starting as a patternless

mass, the stem cells organised themselves into the two-walled form that corresponds to the inner and outer layers of the retina during the development of an embryo. “We are now well on our way to becoming able to generate not only differentiated cell types, but organised tissues” that can be used in regenerative medicine, he said.

The discovery is relevant for a group of genetic eye conditions, known as retinitis pigmentosa, that lead to blindness, Sasai added. The disease attacks vision by damaging the retina, the layer of tissue at the back of the inner eye that converts light images to nerve signals and sends them to the brain. AFP

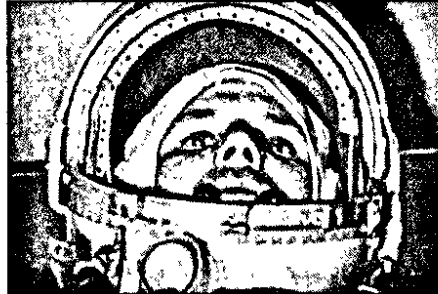
Times of India ND 08/04/2011 P-21

It's 50 yrs since Gagarin conquered space

Moscow: Half a century ago, a Russian carpenter's son named Yuri Gagarin became the first man in space, carving an indelible mark in human history and scoring the greatest Soviet Cold War success. The 27-year-old's 108-minute flight on April 12, 1961 is still remembered in Russia even after the collapse of the Soviet Union as its greatest national achievement. His death in a plane crash seven years later only added to his mythical status.

Gagarin's safe return to earth in central Russia — where he was famously given bread and milk by an astonished grandmother — ensured he would live the rest of his life as a legend. Hundreds of thousands flooded the streets of Moscow when news broke of his triumph, which confirmed the Soviet Union's supremacy in the space race.

The other-worldly allure of Gagarin is ex-



OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD FEAT: Yuri Gagarin inside the Vostok 1 command capsule on April 12, 1961

emplified by the 40m titanium monument that still bears down on Moscow, his arms outstretched like a bionic superman and ap-

parently preparing to shoot up into the sky.

Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev seized on the propaganda value of Gagarin's coup in beating the US into space, sending him on "missions of peace" around the world, to meet figures including UK's Queen. Russia's modern day leaders are also not expected to shy away from using the anniversary next Tuesday to remind Russians and the world of its past achievements and that it remains a great power on the global stage.

Gagarin died on March 27, 1968, when the Mig fighter carrying him crashed while on a training flight. The crash was never properly explained. But his death coincided with the end of the Soviet Union's lead in space race. Just over a year after he was killed, on July 20, 1969, US astronaut Neil Armstrong would take the first human steps on the moon. **AFF**

Business Line ND 08/04/2011 P-8

ISB posts 22% rise in job offers this year

Our Bureau

Hyderabad, April 7

The campus offers for students of Indian School of Business (ISB) have gone up by 22 per cent this year compared to last year. Consulting and IT firms were the biggest hirers with 32 and 21 per cent of offers.

The average annual salary had also gone up by 10-15 per cent compared to last year, Mr Ajit Rangnekar, Dean, ISB, told newsmen here. The total number of offers for the Class of 2011 who graduated on April 2 stood at 661 for a pool of 552 students.

For 2009 and 2010, ISB had seen less number of offers than the number of students and some of them remained unemployed by the time of graduation unlike previous years.

"This was the highest-ever number of offers for ISB students from 310 companies, including 74 international corporates, who hired our students for overseas assignments," Mr Rangnekar said.

There were 84 international offers from all major geographies, including Africa, which participated in ISB for the first time.

SALARY

While not disclosing the high-

est salary offer bagged by ISB graduates nor the sector from which it came, the Dean said the average salary for outgoing students was 2.3 per cent higher than what they were drawing at the time of joining ISB (ISB only takes candidates with work experience).

However, manufacturing sector had shown good increase in salary offers if one goes by offers made to mid 80 per cent of students (excluding to top 10 per cent and bottom 10 per cent). "For instance, this had gone up from Rs 12.16 lakh to Rs 17.32 lakh in 2010 and 2011 respectively," Mr V.K. Menon, Senior Director, Career Advancement Services, ISB, said.

The average compensation for 160 women students in the class was also higher than the class-average.

MAIN INDUSTRIES

A major chunk of students – 32 per cent – have received offers in the consulting industry, followed by 21 per cent in information technology and 12 per cent in banks/financial institutions. For the first time, ISB alumni, who had set up their own companies, had also started hiring from campus this year.

Times of India ND
08/04/2011 P-21

New weapon: Mutant fungus could help fight malaria

London: In a cramped London laboratory filled with test tubes, bacteria and mosquitoes, scientists are trying to engineer a new weapon in the battle against malaria: a mutant fungus.

For years, Angray Kang at Westminster University and colleagues have been testing whether they could genetically tweak a fungus to kill the malaria parasite carried by mosquitoes. Now they've found that in lab experiments, mosquitoes exposed to the fungus show a sharp drop in levels of the parasite. If it works that way in the wild, that should make it harder for the disease to infect people.

Kang said the mutant fungus could be sprayed onto walls and bednets like insecticides and could be made for a comparable cost. He said the same process of genetic modification could also be used to target other insect-spread diseases like dengue and West Nile virus. "This is very exciting research," said Andrew Read, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Dynamics at Pennsylvania State University. "It tells us that if you can't find something in nature to do what you want, you can just make it," he said.

Read said using the souped-up fungus might be less environmentally invasive than other genetic approaches. In laboratory tests, Kang and colleagues found mosquitoes exposed to the mutated fungus had malaria parasite levels about 85% lower than normal. When they added a scorpion toxin to the mix, levels dropped by 97%. Experts think by using the fungus fewer malaria parasites should translate into fewer cases. AP

Economic Times 08/04/2011 P-10

'New IIMs will create a Talent Pool to drive Growth'

HI Q&A

One of the newest Indian Institutes of Management on the block, IIM

Tiruchirappalli, is all set to kick off operations, starting June. The new director of the institute, **Prafulla Agnihotri**, formerly marketing professor at IIM Calcutta, spoke to **Sreeratha D Basu** on the institute's USP, industry response and keeping the IIM flag flying high.



What will IIM Trichy's focus areas be?

Considering the kind of faculty members we have, finance and marketing seem to be the core areas. IIM Trichy will use the experiential learning methodology along with case studies. It will partner with industry in providing consulting and training to managers and conducting joint research, welcome industry to co-teach courses and mentor other educational institutes if they so desire.

There is a perception that younger IIMs are diluting the brand value.

What is your take on this?

If you see the size of the market (over 20,00,000 students appear for CAT and only those with a 99 percentile and above make the cut) and its potential, you will realise that there are a number of deserving students who cannot make it simply due to capacity constraints in the existing IIMs. The new IIMs will cater to potential candidates. With the Indian economy going global, Indian industry will also need additional talent to drive global growth. This is something additional IIMs will achieve.

Brand dilution will take place if the quality is compromised with. In a market with such huge untapped potential, if quality parameters are held high, there is little fear of brand dilution. At IIM Trichy, we have received a great response to the faculty positions we had advertised for. We received over 325 applications out of which we finally selected 14. They are all PhDs from the best schools in the US, IIMs or IITs and with an excel-

lent research and publication record. Some of them have been associated with existing IIMs. We are planning to select six additional faculty members in the second round. Given the quality of faculty members and the students at IIM Trichy, there is little danger of compromising the quality of education and research.

What will IIM Bangalore's role be as mentor institute?

IIM Bangalore is providing us with administrative support. Since we have recruited our own faculty, we may not need the support of IIM Bangalore's faculty members.

How will you leverage your experience as the former placement head of IIM Calcutta? What is the industry's response to the new institute?

Industry response has been great. Some of the top 30 companies who visit IIM A, B and C have assured their support to IIM Trichy not only in placements but also in teaching some courses jointly with our faculty, offering practical assignments to students, and partnering in training and consulting. Industry also believes that by having new IIMs, their catchment area has increased. Most of these top 30 companies enjoy a Slot 0 and Slot 1 status with IIM A, B and C. IIM Trichy is also tying up with a few corporate houses to look after their MDPs (management development programmes). It will launch its online continuous education programme via satellite.

Mint ND 8/04/2011 P-11

Premji Foundation to set up institute

BY PRIYANKA PULLA
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HYDERABAD

The Azim Premji Foundation, the eponymous non-profit education arm run by the chairman of **Wipro Ltd**, has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Mumbai-based Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), to set up the Azim Premji School of Education (APSE) in Hyderabad. The school will offer degrees and conduct research in education. The Foundation will make an investment of ₹40 crore over the next five years in the school.

"The Tata Institute of Social Sciences will bring a deeper understanding of social sciences and the developmental sector, while we bring our on-field understanding of education and our relationships with the state governments," said Dileep Ranjekar, chief executive of the Azim Premji Foundation, in a phone interview. The Foundation and TISS will jointly develop the curriculum, and share faculty and student services. Ranjekar also said that the APSE will help TISS take on more students at the Hyderabad campus and offer financial assistance to those who wish to pursue education or research. "In principle, APSE will be very similar to the Azim Premji university, although initially it may have a more academic orientation, while the university has a field orientation," he said.

APSE will be headed by Lakshmi



New venture: Wipro chairman Azim Premji. The Foundation has signed a pact with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences to set up the Azim Premji School of Education.

Lingam who is currently dean, research and development, at TISS in Mumbai. The school will begin its programmes in August this year with about 150 students. The hiring of faculty is complete with some of them shifting from the TISS Mumbai campus. It will operate on the campus of a state government educational institution this year but will later be shifted to the TISS campus in Hyderabad which is currently being set up. The decade-old Azim Premji Foundation, which received a grant of Wipro shares worth ₹8,846 crore from Premji in December last year, works primarily to improve

the quality of education in India. Premji had transferred 213 million of his shares in Wipro, equivalent to an 8.7% stake, to fund the development activities of the Foundation. The Foundation collaborates with various state governments and has an outreach of over 20,000 schools and 2.5 million children.

Last year, the Foundation established the Azim Premji University (APU) in Karnataka, which will launch masters programmes in education, development and teacher education in July this year. It will start with about 200 students, and aims to reach about 3,500 by 2016.